

Related Change Request (CR) #: 3645

MLN Matters Number: MM3645

Related CR Release Date: January 21, 2005

Related CR Transmittal #: 438

Effective Date: July 1, 2005

Implementation Date: July 5, 2005

Fiscal Intermediary (FI) Standard Paper Remittance (SPR) Advice Changes

Note: This article was revised to contain Web addresses that conform to the new CMS web site and to show they are now MLN Matters articles. All other information remains the same.

Provider Types Affected

All Medicare providers that bill Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs)

Provider Action Needed

Be advised that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has instructed FIs to discontinue sending SPRs to providers, billing agents, clearinghouses, or other entities representing providers, that have received electronic remittance advices (ERAs) for at least 30 days, effective July 1, 2005. Additionally, CMS has instructed FIs to discontinue including their telephone number on their SPRs effective July 1, 2005.

Background

Publication 100-4, Chapter 22, Section 40.1 of the Medicare Claims Processing Section of the Internet Only Manual (IOM) states: "FIs allow providers to receive a hard copy remittance in addition to the 835 during the first 30 days of receiving ERAs and during other testing. After that time, FIs do not send a hard copy version of the 835, in addition to the electronic transmission, in the production mode. They should contact CMS if this requirement causes undue hardship on a particular provider."

For a variety of reasons, all FIs did not discontinue mailing of SPRs following successful transmission of 835s to providers that requested transmission of 835s. CMS is now requiring that all FIs enforce this requirement effective July 1, 2005.

FI SPRs currently contain the contractor phone number, but their ERAs do not. CMS prohibits inclusion of information in an SPR that is not reported in ERA transactions to eliminate a possible incentive for receipt of an SPR in lieu of an 835.

To comply with this restriction, effective July 5, 2005, all FIs must eliminate printing their telephone number in their SPRs. Contact information should continue to be included on the FI website and published in regularly scheduled newsletters. Such information, including toll-free numbers for your FI, can also be

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found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.pdf> on the CMS web site.

Implementation

The implementation date for this instruction is July 5, 2005.

Related Information

SE0451 titled, "Guidance Regarding Elimination of Standard Paper Remittance (SPR) Advice Notices in the Old Format." may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0451.pdf> on the CMS web site.

Additional Information

The official instruction issued to your FI regarding this change may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R438CP.pdf> on the CMS web site.

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